THE

Theatrical Observer:

AND

Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate nor set down aught in malice."

No. 234. *Thursday, Aug.* 15, 1822. *Price* 1*d.*

ENGLISH OPERA HOUSE.

THE very name of *Love among the Roses* carries with it so many delightful ideas, that the subject seems an everlasting favorite :—and who that beholds the queen of flowers personified in Miss CAREW—blooming modestly, as Zephyrus plays around her—but must feel the impression pleasingly strengthened. Last night after this Operetta, *Amateurs and Actors*, a lively and humourous piece by Mr. PEAKE, who to-night offers us in *Gil Blas*, a *partnership* effort of his pen, was acted for the first time this season But alas ! where was Mr. *O. P. Bustle !* It must, surely have been a *good-natured* attempt on Mr. J. KNIGHT's part to fill a character so much *out of his line.* The manager, no doubt, conceived the piece wanted *dusting*, to preserve it in the favorable memory of the public, and though HARLEY was wanting, resolved to hang Mr. O. P. Bustle's coat on any shoulders, and so Mr. J. KNIGHT's were at his service. The other characters are so well filled, that much entertainment would have been derived from the *Amateurs and Actors* had the filling-up, and finishing of O. P. Bustle's part been in the hands of our old favorite, the " most moveable performer" on the stage, as Hazlitt calls Harley.

Gordon, the Gypsey, concluded the amusements of the evening.

Gil Blas, which is to be produced to-night, is a perfect *novelty* in dramatic construction. *Gil* grows under our very nose from 17 up to 52 : and we hope for the ingenious authors sake, and the interest of the very assiduous proprietor who seems anxious to entertain the public with every species of variety within *the power of his license*, that the new piece will meet the encouragement we have heard it merits.

The *Overture* and *Music* are by Mr.Moss,with the exception of two Songs composed by Mr. F. Sor. The new Scenery, by Mr. Thiselton, Mr. Smith, and assistants, The Dresses by Mr. Head & Mrs. Brooks

HAY-MARKET.

A fashionable audience attended this theatre, last night, to witness the representation of *The Heir at Law*, which afforded considerable gratification, from the excellence of its performance. Mr. LISTON was particularly humorous and laughable as *Lord Duberly*, and Messrs TERRY, JONES, and OXBERRY, were highly effective in their respective parts.

Lovers Quarrels, preceded the Comedy, and *Killing no Murder*, closed the entertainment.

PORTRAIT OF SHAKSPEARE.

TALMA the celebrated French tragedian, has accidently met with an authentic portrait of our "immortal bard" SHAKSPEARE. It was in the hands of a furniture broker in France, from whom Talma bought it.

The painting is in oil, upon a panel of an oval form, which is inserted in the centre of a piece of wood that once formed the upper part of a pair of bellows; the lower part of which, together with the nozle and leather is lost. On each side of this piece of wood, and attached to the edge, is a pair of carved wings. Around the surface, close to the edge, and in one line, is rudely carved, in letters rather more than half an inch in length, the following verse.

Who have we here,
Stuck on this bellows,
But the prince of good fellows,
Willy Shakspeare.

Directly over the portrait are these lines, also carved—

O, base and coward luck,
To be so stuck.————POINS.

And immediately under it are the following:—

Nay, but a godlike luck's to him assigned,
Who, like the Almighty, rides upon the wind.—PISTOL.

The Portrait is said to bear a strong resemblance to the woodcuts in the old folio editions of his works. It is in excellent preservation, and represents a man about thirty years of age, with auburn hair, gray eyes, a remarkably high forehead, mustachios, and a sharp pointed beard; a florid complexion, and a fine expressive countenance, full of sweetness, "smiles and affability."

It is supposed the bellows were carried to France, by *Sir Kenelm Digby*, in 1634 or 1635, and that in the course of the violent changes of property that have occurred in that country, they fell at last into the hands of the broker.

Fire and Water.

Captain Hurry, Mr. BARTLEY,
Mr. Thrifty, Mr. J. KNIGHT, Frederick, Mr. WRENCH,
Jacob, Mr. WILKINSON,
Lawyer, Mr. TURNOUR, Constables, Mr. LODGE, Mr. POVEY,
Fanny, (first time,) Miss POVEY,
Furbish, Mrs. J. WEIPPERT.

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Published by C. HARRIS, 25, Bow Street, by whom orders and communications are received; and Sold by CHAPPEL and Son, Royal Exchange.

Theatre Royal, English Opera House.

This Evening will be performed (1st. time) a new Operatic Drama, Founded on the History of the Spanish Adventurer at 3 stages of his life, which includes a period of 35 Years.

GIL BLAS!

At 17, 25, 52.

A Prologue will be Spoken by Mr. BARTLEY.

In Acts 1. & 2. the Scene is laid at PENNAFLOR, & in its neighbourhood

Gil Blas, (aged Seventeen) Miss KELLY,

Gil Perez, (the Canon) Mr. W. BENNETT, Corcuelo, Mr. SALTER,

Picaro, (an adept in disguise) Mr. WRENCH,

Rolando, (Captain of Banditti) Mr. T. P. COOKE,

Ambrose de Lamela, Lope, | his associates { Mr. WILKINSON, Mr. CALLAHAN

Domingo, (an old Negro attendant in the Cavern) Mr. J. KNIGHT,

Robbers, Messrs. Lodge, Hill, Proud, Povey, Tett, &c.

Donna Mencia, Miss CAREW, Leonarda (Cavern Cook) Mrs. BRYAN

Between the 2nd and 3rd acts, the audience will suppose a lapse of Eight Years.

In Act 3rd, the Scene is at VALLADOLID.

Gil Blas, (aged 25, naturally grown and altered) Mr. PEARMAN,

Don Fernando, (Brother to Donna Mencia) Mr. J. BLAND,

Count de Polan, (Father of Donna Mencia) Mr. JOHNSON,

Picaro, (8 years older, but not better) Mr. WRENCH,

Rolando, (also 8 years older in iniquity) Mr. T. P. COOKE,

Ambrose, (8 years escaped from the hangman) Mr. WILKINSON,

Father Augustine, Mr. H. PHILLIPS,

Servants, Messrs. Brown and Jenkinson.

Donna Mencia, (8 years in love with Gil Blas) Miss CAREW.

The patience of the audience will be tresspassed upon between the 3rd and 4th acts for a further period of 27 years, and the History of Gil Blas here begins where the Novel has concluded.

In Acts 4th and 5th, the Scene is at MADRID, and its Vicinity.

Gil Blas, (aged 52) Mr. BARTLEY,

Philip IV. of Spain, (under the assumed characters of a Knight of Calatrava, the Duke of Lerma, and a Stranger) Mr. ROWBOTHAM,

Don Gaston, (in love with Antonia) Mr. BROADHURST,

Picaro, (reformed into a Secretary, & transformed into a Pedlar,) Mr. WRENCH,

Rolando, (an old rogue, and Jailor of a dungeon) Mr. T. P. COOKE,

Peasants, Guards, Alguazils, Messrs. Turnour, Willis, Bowman, &c.

Antonia, (Daughter of Gil Blas, and very like her father when he was Seventeen) Miss KELLY,

Marietta, (her attendant) Miss POVEY.

Spanish Girls, Miss HOLDAWAY and Miss SOUTHWELL.

Peasants, Messdms. Vidall, Thomlinson, Brown, Jerrold, Gould, &c.

Great Variety of New Scenery.

To conclude with, See the opposite page.

Theatre Royal, Hay-Market.

This Evening will be performed, the Comedy of

The Hypocrite.

Col. Lambert, Mr. JOHNSON,
Dr. Cantwell, (2nd time) Mr. TERRY,
Maw-worm, Mr. LISTON,
Sir John Lambert, Mr. YOUNGER,
Darnly, Mr. BAKER, Seward, Mr. COVENEY,
Old Lady Lambert, Mrs. PEARCE,
Young Lady Lambert, Miss BOYCE,
Charlotte, Mrs. CHATTERLEY,
Betty, Mrs. COVENEY.

To conclude with, an Opera in 3 acts, call'd The

Marriage of Figaro.

Count Almaviva, Mr. JONES,
Figaro, Mr. LISTON,
Notary, Mr. EBSWORTH, Sebastian, Mr. HENRY,
Fiorello, Mr. LEONI LEE,
Cherubino, Mrs. CHATTERLEY,
Basil, Mr. BROUGH, Antonio, Mr. TAYLEURE,

THE CHORUSSES AND DANCES.

By Messrs. Caulfield, Henry, Hemes, Ellis, Moor, &c.
Messdms. Henry, Smith, Kendall, Wood, Phennick, Caulfield, &c.
Messrs. Holman, Morgue, Austin, Vials, Gouriet, Colson.
Messdms. Bates, M. Bates, Ebsworth, Fairbrother, Cook, Thurston, &c.

Countess Almaviva, Mrs. GARRICK.
Barbarina, Mrs. JONES, Susanna, Miss PATON,
Marcellina, Mrs. COVENEY.

To-morrow, The Marriage of Figaro, Peter Fin, and Match-Making